

TEAMWORK IN THE BODY OF CHRIST - Ephesians 4

Across the globe, as Corona virus continues to spread death and chaos, the catch cry is that 'we are all in this together' and only together, can we stop the spread of the virus and save lives. Ironically, our togetherness includes 'isolation'. Praise God, most people are willing to pull together and comply with health directives but some stridently refuse to even wear a face mask. They have forgotten there is no "I" in team.



My father taught us a vital lesson about teamwork. Dad's father had been a bullock-team driver hauling logs out of the bush in the Hunter Valley in NSW. A team could be upward of ten pair of beasts. The lesson was that every beast, from lead pair back to the end pair had the same task - to work together to haul those logs out and keep the cart steady over the rough terrain. If just one beast stopped pulling its weight, the whole team was compromised and this made the task more difficult. 'It's the same in life Pop said, 'if we are to succeed, we must pull together.'



Teamwork in the Body of Christ

Paul described the church metaphorically, as a 'body', united as one under the headship of Christ. Activated by the Holy Spirit the church is a living, breathing animated body of believers. Open your bible at **Ephesians 4, particularly vv15-16**. Consider how this body works, what our part in it is, and why the church exists.

The one reason the church exists, is to proclaim the gospel of God's love in word and action; to grow in discipleship and fellowship; and to worship God. So that this can happen, the Spirit gives specific gifts to each member that the 'body' may 'grow up' to maturity in the knowledge of Christ, equipped for worship, witness and service. Having a clear vision of who we are and why we exist puts us all on the same page so that together, we may go out with Christ in God's mission to the world, making disciples and encouraging each other on towards God's promised end.

Who are we? Let me refresh your memory with an old song: *The church is not a building; the church is not a steeple; the church is not a resting place; the church is a people. I am the church, you are the church we are the church together!*

Meditation:

- Imagine a sports team where everyone was great at scoring, but no one was good at defense. How well would that work?
- What might it look like if a church loses its vision - what might fill the vacuum?
- In your church, how do you encourage others?
- Do you see yourself and your congregation growing and maturing in Jesus?
- Don't know how to use your gift? Why not talk to God about that right now.

Prayer: Loving God, thank you that we are your 'one' people in Christ. Bless you Lord for the brothers and sisters we have in Christ at Aitkenvale. In these days of death and chaos, may we faithfully share the love and grace of Christ that the world will know that we are yours and that in your love you have sent Your Son to save us and bring us safely home. Amen

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